



# VIRTUALLY TOGETHER: THE 30TH CECILIA MEIGHAN, RSM Institute of Law and Religious Life

## THEME OF YEAR III (PART OF THE THREE-YEAR CYCLE):

**The Religious Institute: The Choice to be  
Part of the Public Life of the Church**

## Interactive Virtual Sessions: August 20 - November 19, 2026

The Institute offers professional development to elected and appointed leadership of Roman catholic religious congregations. The program is also invaluable to those members to whom leadership has delegated responsibilities for the life and ministry of the members. Over the course of the interactive virtual Institute, attendees can seek input from faculty and also from the experience of their peers.

### This program will enable you to:

- Gain a new perspective on the role and responsibilities of leadership
- Interact with those who share similar responsibilities and challenges
- Discover alternative solutions to problems
- Create a network of peers

### FOUNDRESS OF THE CECILIA MEIGHAN, RSM INSTITUTE OF LAW AND RELIGIOUS LIFE:

**Cecilia Meighan, RSM, EdD, JD**

Our founder and first Director (until 2008) died on September 12, 2014 after many years of service as a teacher, administrator, and lawyer as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sister of Mercy of the Americas. For the first 21 Institutes of Law and Religious Life, she served as inspiration, mentor, and friend to many faculty members and participants. We count on her continued presence, guidance, and inspiration as we continue this Institute named in her honor.

### MEET OUR FACULTY:

#### DEBORAH M. CERULLO, SSND, JD, JCL, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE

Deborah M. Cerullo SSND is an attorney and canonist whose primary focus is the legal issues of religious institutes. From 2003 to 2016, she served as the principle attorney at the Law Office of Deborah M. Cerullo SSND in Providence, RI and has served on the faculty of the Institute of Law and Religious Life on an ongoing basis since 2003. Prior to 2003 she served on the law faculties of the University of Notre Dame and Boston College and as a legal services attorney in both secular and faith-based organizations. In 2016 Deborah was elected to the provincial council of the Atlantic- Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and completed her term in 2021. She has since returned to full time consulting work with religious institutes.



#### KELLY CONNORS, PM, JCD, Ph.D.

Sister Kelly Connors is a Sister of the Presentation of Mary and a member of the US Province. She completed her studies in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. With the specialization in Religious Law, Kelly has worked for dioceses, served part-time at the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and taught at universities. Currently, she provides workshops and conferences for religious and their collaborators, consults with individual religious and leadership teams, as well as collaborating with several Conferences for Major Superiors throughout the world. Kelly served one term on her General Leadership Team (2017-2023) and has recently returned to the United States to continue offering canonical consulting and support to Consecrated Life and those who have the ministry of leadership.



## VIRTUAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

**Dates:** August 20, September 3 & 17, October 1, 15, & 29, November 12 & 19

**Day:** Thursdays

**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Eastern Time)

	<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>SESSION:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
1.	Introduction		August 20
2.	Refresher on Key Concepts	Session one	August 20
3.	Forms of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Associations of the Christian Faithful	Session two	August 20
4.	Mission of the Institute	Session one	September 3
5.	Common Life of the Institute	Session two	September 3
6.	Authority within the Church	Session one	September 17
7.	Abuse of Authority	Session two	September 17
8.	Administration of the Institute's Mission	Session one	October 1
9.	Financial Support of the Institute's Mission (Fundraising)	Session two	October 1
10.	Interdependence between the Institute and Local Church	Session one	October 15
11.	Relationship between the Apostolic See and the Institute	Session two	October 15
12.	Alienation/Sale or other transfer of Property	Session one	October 29
13.	Allegation(s) and Legal Complaint(s) against a Member	Session two	October 29
14.	Associates of the Institute	Session one	November 12
15.	Immigration/Religious Workers	Session two	November 12
16.	Moral Issues in our Times Impacting Religious Institutes	Session one	November 19
17.	Concluding Session and Case Studies	Session two	November 19

**Program Cost:** \$399.00 (per individual for all virtual sessions)

**If you have any questions, please email**

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